

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
 (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference NEC04P101 | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See Form PCT/IPEA/416 |
| International application No. PCT/JP2004/012982 | International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 07.09.2004 | Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 08.09.2003 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06T3/00 , H04N1/387 | | |
| Applicant NEC CORPORATION | | |
| <p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of 4 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p> | | |

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| Date of submission of the demand | Date of completion of this report |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/012982

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

 - international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 1-18 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 the claims:
 nos. 1-4, 7-14, 17-24, 27-30 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 the drawings:
 sheets fig. 1-12 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. 5, 6, 15, 16, 25, 26 _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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| Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
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1. Statement

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|-------------------------------|--------|--|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | <u>1-4, 7-10, 11-14, 17-20, 21-24, 27-30</u> | YES |
| | Claims | _____ | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | <u>10, 20, 30</u> | YES |
| | Claims | <u>1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24, 27-29</u> | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | <u>1-4, 7-10, 11-14, 17-20, 21-24, 27-30</u> | YES |
| | Claims | _____ | NO |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Novelty

The invention set forth in claims (hereinafter referred to as "C") 1-4, 7-10, 11-14, 17-20, 21-24 and 27-30 is not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the international search report and is, therefore, novel.

Inventive Step

The invention set forth in C1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24 and 27-29 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1-8 cited in the international search report. Document 1 discloses the same invention as is set forth in C1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24 and 27-29. As illustrated by fig. 1, 4 and 12 of document 1, the invention disclosed in document 1 displays the current partial image and at least a part of the mosaic image (see, in particular, fig. 1, 4 and 12). The feature set forth in C2, 12 and 22 wherein each of the image conversion parameters is set to a suitable value is disclosed in documents 2 and 3 and the feature set forth in C3, 13 and 23 wherein a high resolution image is generated using a mosaic image is disclosed in document 4, hence both features were known prior to the priority

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date of the present application. Please refer to documents 5 and 6 in reference to the image display in C8, 18 and 28 and please see documents 7 and 8 in relation to the image display in documents 7 and 8.

The invention set forth in C10, 20 and 30 involves an inventive step in relation to the documents cited in the international search report. None of the cited documents discloses the feature wherein an image is displayed in which the colour is adjusted according to the numbers of layers of partial image. Moreover, it would not be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of this feature from the feature disclosed in document 8, in which different types of gradation are applied to overlapping regions.

Industrial Applicability

The invention set forth in C1-4, 7-10, 11-14 and 17-20 relates to an image synthesising system and an image synthesising method and is, thus, industrially applicable. The invention set forth in C21-24 and 27-30 relates to a programme for operating an image synthesising process on a computer and is, thus, industrially applicable.

Cited Documents:

1. JP 2000-244814 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 8 September 2000
2. JP 2001-14444 A (Topcon Corp.), 19 January 2001
3. JP 6-303561 A (Sony Corp.), 28 October 1994
4. JP 10-69537 A (NEC Corp.), 10 March 1998
5. JP 10-164563 A (Canon Inc.), 19 June 1998
6. JP 11-88767 A (Sony Corp.), 30 March 1999
7. JP 2-178646 A (Canon Inc.), 11 July 1990

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

8. JP 5-46718 A (Kowa Co., Ltd.), 26 February 1993